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Redistricting: What to expect and why it matters!

Join us in person for our Fall Kickoff
Monday, Sept 13, 6:30 pm
Andover City Hall -- Council Chambers

1685 Crosstown Blvd NW, Andover

OR YOU CAN ATTEND VIRTUALLY – SEE INFO BELOW

September 13 – We will be returning to Andover City Hall for our September meeting! The topic is Redistricting, an important activity that happens every 10 years following the Census. Learn about the processes, the issues, opportunities for reform, and more.



Our presenters will be:

- **Kathy Tingelstad**, member of LWV ABC member, former Minnesota state representative, and speaker-educator on the topic of redistricting
- **Paul Huffman** from LWV Minnesota where he works with national and state organizations to provide information, tools and support for local Leagues and members to assist them in census and redistricting efforts.

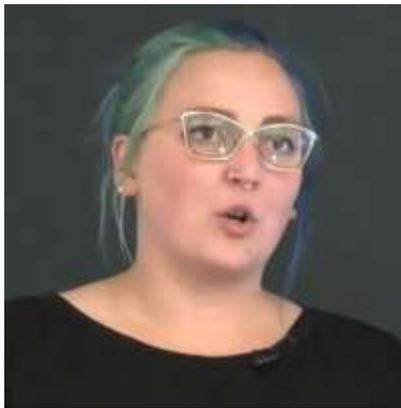


This will be a ‘hybrid’ meeting – you can choose to attend in person or attend virtually – we will send connection information to our members on the morning of the 13th. (If you are not a member and would like to also participate virtually, email us at lwvabc@gmail.com.) **If you do attend in person, please wear a mask as we are following [CDC guidelines](#).** No light supper, but we will have wrapped snacks.

We will also be presenting our **Friend of League Award to Paul Linnell and the Anoka County Elections staff**. They’ve been invited to join us at this program to be recognized for their outstanding accomplishments and service to the electorate of Anoka County to ensure safe and accessible elections.

Transition of the Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts LWV ABC Meeting on August 9

We met at the historic Banfill-Locke House in Fridley on August 9 for an update from Executive Director Abby Kosberg on changes in store for this arts organization. They will be losing their home at the Banfill-Locke House, but Abby described planning that's underway for locating a new space, new funding, new partners, and expanded arts



services to the communities.



North Suburban Center for the Arts is the new (and old!) name of the Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts. Anoka County has helped to support this arts organization since 1988 but that funding ends on December 31 and the organization is losing its home at the Banfill-Locke House. Abby's challenge is to lead this organization into a new space and new funding, which will be challenging!

Missed this program? Leslie Sauer-Smith of QCTV was in attendance to record it, and the video is now available for viewing on the LWV ABC website at on the [Spotlight on Issues page](#) as well as on our LWV ABC YouTube channel.

Update as of an August 27 posting to the organization's Facebook page:

"We're so excited to announce that we've found a home for the North Suburban Center for the Arts! We will be moving just down the road to Fire Station #3—a decommissioned fire station that has sat vacant since 2018 when then City of Fridley relocated its fire department to City Hall. The fire station sits at the corner of East River Road and 77th Way NE."

Read about the campaign to fund the renovation of the new building, support staff, and ensure that programming remains accessible to the community at www.northsuburbanarts.org/new-home

Upcoming Meetings – Mark your Calendars NOW!

October 19 – City of Fridley's Transition – see page 3 of this newsletter

November 8 – Anoka County Sheriff James Stewart on issues facing his department

Want to help plan future meetings?

Our Program Committee, led by DeeAnn Christensen, is planning meaty and informative meetings on current topics that support LWV work and initiatives. If you'd like to help plan future meetings, email us at lwvabc@gmail.com!



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

ANOKA, BLAINE, COON RAPIDS AREA

THE VOTER

September 2021

City of Fridley & League of Women Voters ABC Joint Meeting - October 19

Join the City of Fridley and the League of Women Voters Anoka, Blaine, Coon Rapids (LWV-ABC) Chapter to learn more about Fridley's transition from a city with an aging population to a city that's welcoming to young families and providing varieties of housing and other amenities to make Fridley a vibrant community for the future. Presentation topics will include 2021 Resident Survey results, community development updates, and Park System Improvement Plan updates. All community members are welcome to attend!

Date: Tuesday, October 19th, 2021

Time: Social Time begins at 6:30 p.m., Presentation* is from 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Location: Council Chambers, Fridley City Hall (7071 University Ave. N.E., Fridley, MN 55432)

*The presentation will also be broadcast live on Fridley Municipal Television, Channel 17.

About The League of Women Voters ABC

The LWVABC, which serves Anoka County, is a grassroots organization that encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. LWVABC advocates on issues, but never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

Learn about the LWVABC at My.LWV.org/Minnesota/Anoka-Blaine-Coon-Rapids-Area.

COVID-19

The format of this joint meeting is subject to change with updates on the COVID-19 pandemic and federal/state/local orders. Please check our City's webpage and social media accounts for the most recent updates and changes.

- Stay home if you are sick.
- Social distance
- Consider wearing a mask.
- Practice good hygiene.

Questions

Contact Alyssa Kruzel, Community Engagement Specialist, at Alyssa.Kruzel@FridleyMN.gov or 763-572-3579.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF ANOKA-BLAINE-COON RAPIDS AREA



THE VOTER
September 2021

Voter Registration

from Cindy Wetzell, all about *National Voter Registration Day*.



Digital Billboards

New LWV ABC member Rachel Mero has set up an opportunity for LWV ABC to share messages about Voter Registration Day (Sept 28) on the big digital billboards along Hwy 10 in Blaine. The billboards will be up for 2-3 days leading up to and including the 28th. Some cities and other organizations with digital billboards may run this as well.

Libraries

We have arranged for on-site voter registration at Rum River and Northtown. So far only three people have signed up (at Rum River). There are four, 2-hour shifts on Signup Genius for each site. If you are willing to work, please visit [Sign Up Genius on the LWV ABC website](#) and pick a shift.

Newspapers

We will have an article in each of the ABC papers and The Press. Because of publication dates they will appear the week before the 28th. The article will also be sent to the Northeaster as they serve Columbia Heights.

Community Cable TV

For the stations that have it, they will promote the day on their digital billboards. Cindy Wetzell, LWV ABC Voter Registration coordinator, was interviewed on 8/30 for the QCTV station—essentially a PSA. Other cable stations in our area have agreed to advertise National Voter Registration Day on their broadcasts interleaved with other programming.

Meet the Candidates – Fall 2021 School Board Elections

from Linda Rodgers



Linda Rodgers and other LWV ABC volunteers are making plans to conduct virtual candidate forums for school board elections in Anoka-Hennepin District and Spring Lake Park District. The forums will be recorded, and the links provided on our website.

The public will be invited to submit their questions in advance of the forum via our website, and moderators will sort questions for inclusion as forum time permits. The taping date for Anoka-Hennepin District has been set for October 14. The Spring Lake Park District date is being determined.

See our website for the link to submit questions for the candidates and other information as it’s developed: <https://my.lwv.org/minnesota/anoka-blaine-coon-rapids-area/meet-candidates-forums>

ABC Members Study Anoka County Government

submitted by Julie Trude, LWV ABC Vice-President

Interviewing Anoka County Board Chairman Scott Schulte last week, Dee Ann Christenson was happy to hear him compliment the CMAL League of Women Voters for studying metro area county governments to better inform the public because, he declared, people just do not know what counties do, "it's the hidden level of government." Further, he hoped to learn something from the completed report, as, "I support best practices," he stated. If another county is doing something in a better way than Anoka, then we should learn from them, he concluded.



Even though the summer weather entices us to enjoy the outdoors, Wes Volkenant (study group chair, treasurer, CMAL representative), Julie Trude, (VP, CMAL representative), and Dee Ann Christenson, (program chair), worked together to answer dozens of questions about Anoka County government operations, procedures, public responsiveness, their work with residents on parks and roads and with legislators on their priorities. As regular observers of Anoka County Government, Wes and Dee Ann are familiar with many practices, but initially the study seeks to find what can anyone find through published sources. For example, most of us could find how to contact our commissioner or when and where does the board meet.

Moving to the second phase of the study, the team will interview commissioners and administrative staff to learn more. Do you wonder how much a commissioner is paid? Are they considered part-time? How do commissioners get input from the public as they make policy decisions? Will they adopt an ethics code? At what meetings can a resident ask questions or make comments? Are there recordings of committee or board meetings? Will practices altered for Covid remain? How do they decide what a priority is for the budget or for lobbying? Who influences their decisions?

Dee Ann's recent interview of Board Chair Scott Schulte focused on how he collects public input, how the board sets lobbying and budget priorities, how the county works with neighborhoods on road projects, and how the Board works with cities and the Met Council. Julie is seeking to interview County Administrator Rhonda Sivarajah about operations and processes. Wes will interview Commissioner Mike Gamache to discuss accountability, public input on parks and other topics.

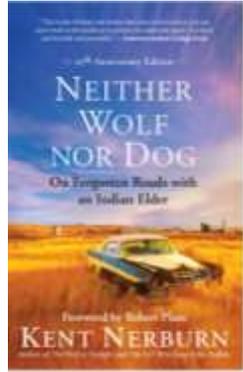
All study groups will have their information compiled into one report this fall with publication anticipated in early 2022.

JOIN US ON ZOOM FOR BOOK AND FILM CLUB DISCUSSIONS

Gather with LWV ABC members and friends to enjoy relaxed conversations to expand your knowledge o diversity, equity, and inclusion topics – all from the comfort of your check, yard, or comfy chair.

Upcoming Films

- October 6 - *Neither Wolf Nor Dog* (2016) book or film (Gretchen will loan her DVD – email her at lwvabc@gmail.com to get it!)
- November 3 - *Black Panther*



Upcoming Books

- October 6 - *Neither Wolf Nor Dog* (2016) book or film
- November 17 - *Rez Life: An Indian's Journey Through Reservation Life* (2012) by David Treuer

6:15 pm socializing; 6:30 discussion / Check the Calendar on our website for Zoom link / description of book/film / where to obtain:
<https://my.lwv.org/minnesota/anoka-blaine-coon-rapids-area/calendar>

Check out the latest posts on the LWV ABC Antiracism Blog at this link:
<https://www.lwvumrr.org/lwv-abc-blog/category/antiracism-resources>

Highlights of the August Board Meeting

The Board heard from the Voter Services Committee about our preparations for National Voter Registration Day, which occurs on September 28th this year. A new marketing tool this year is a digital billboard. It looks to be an exciting new way to get our message out, and is not very expensive. We also discussed how to handle the Meet the Candidates forums that we will be doing this Fall for two school board elections. Should we hold them with a live audience, or go with a taped, no audience, format. We decided to gather more information before making a decision on it.

The Program Committee reported on our plans for topics for our upcoming membership meetings. Our September meeting will cover redistricting issues brought about by the results of the 2020 census. The committee is also working on a program about policing in Anoka County. In November, we could have Anoka County Sheriff James Stuart speak on issues such as, the forensic lab, the need for a new jail, and budget issues. Then in January we could hold a panel of city and county police officers discussing these issues.

Arlene Gillett, Secretary

August Academy -- Presented by League of Women Voters Minnesota Recordings Now Available

We shared information last month about Zoom orientation sessions for LWV members and leaders. If you were unable to attend you can catch up on what you missed by watching recordings of each session and/or reviewing the slide presentations on the LWV Minnesota website: www.lwvmn.org/august-academy

Most all of the resources shared during the August Academy can be found in these two locations:

- LWVUS: <https://www.lwv.org/league-management>
- LWVMN: <https://www.lwvmn.org/member-resources>

Please take time to familiarize yourself with all the great guidance and support provided to members and League Leaders on these websites. If you have any questions about where to find something that was covered in a session or about LWVMN training in general, please email info@lwvmn.org.

Do you have Information to share with LWV ABC?

Get in touch with LWV ABC

Visit our public website: www.lwvabcmn.org. If you need a refresher on accessing the Members Only section of the website, send an email to lwvabc@gmail.com. We will reply with the link for you to bookmark.



Check out the LWV ABC blog: <https://www.lwvumrr.org/lwv-abc-blog>

We're on Facebook: Just search for "LWV ABC Facebook". **Instagram, too!**

Our monthly newsletter, *The Voter*: Members and other interested persons receive our newsletter by email in the early part of each month. Issues are also available on our LWV ABC website, www.lwvabcmn.org.